

Appl. No. 10/661,380
Amdt. dated October 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A system for facilitating image management for portable devices, the system comprising:

a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device; and

an interface device configured to communicate with the host and the first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to[:]

determine whether the first portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host[;]], and

if the control logic determines it is determined that the first portable device is valid for image synchronization, record an image of the first portable device, determine whether the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and download an image of the first portable device to the second portable device if it is determined the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image synchronization,

wherein the first portable device is not valid for image synchronization if the control logic determines that an authorized number of image synchronizations has already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to:

determine whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host; and

if it is determined the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image replacement, retrieve an image of the first portable device and download the retrieved image to the second portable device.

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Claim 3. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the image of the first portable device is retrieved from a database via the host.

Claim 4. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 2~~ A system for facilitating image management for portable devices, the system comprising:

a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device; and

an interface device configured to communicate with the host and the first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to

determine whether the first portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host, and if the control logic determines that the first portable device is valid for image synchronization, record an image of the first portable device, determine whether the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and download an image of the first portable device to the second portable device if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to determine whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host, and if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image replacement, retrieve an image of the first portable device and download the retrieved image to the second portable device, and wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to[[:]]

determine whether the second portable device includes additional information that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and

if it is determined the control logic determines that the second portable device includes the additional information, concatenate the additional information with the image of the first portable device, and download the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device onto the second portable device.

Claim 5. (original) The system of claim 4 wherein the interface device concatenates the additional information and the image of the first portable device based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

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Claim 6. (original) The system of claim 4 wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to:

forward the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if the control logic determines it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image synchronization if it is determined the control logic determines that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 11. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second portable devices contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

Claim 12. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is implemented using software, hardware or a combination of both.

Claim 13. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second portable devices include smartcards.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A system for providing image synchronization for portable devices, the system comprising:

a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device; and

an interface device configured to communicate with the host, a user, and the first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to[[:]]

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receive a synchronization request from the user[[:]], and
in response to the synchronization request, determine whether the first portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host[[:]], and
if it is determined the control logic determines that the first portable device is valid for image synchronization, record an image of the first portable device, determine whether the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and download an image of the first portable device to the second portable device if it is determined the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image synchronization,
wherein the first portable device is not valid for image synchronization if the control logic determines that an authorized number of image synchronizations have already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

Claim 15. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 14~~ A system for providing image synchronization for portable devices, the system comprising:

a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device; and

an interface device configured to communicate with the host, a user, and the first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to receive a synchronization request from the user, in response to the synchronization request, determine whether the first portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host, and if the control logic determines that the first portable device is valid for image synchronization, record an image of the first portable device, determine whether the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and download an image of the first portable device to the second portable device if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image synchronization,

wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to[[:]]
determine whether the second portable device includes additional information that is not included in the image of the first portable device[[:]], and

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~~if it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device includes the additional information, concatenate the additional information with the image of the first portable device, and download the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device onto the second portable device.

Claim 16. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein the interface device concatenates the additional information and the image of the first portable device based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

Claim 17. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to:

forward the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

Claim 18. (canceled)

Claim 19. (currently amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image synchronization if the control logic determines it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 20. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second portable devices contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

Claim 21. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the system is implemented using software, hardware or a combination of both.

Claim 22. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second portable devices include smartcards.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A system for providing image replacement for portable devices, the system comprising:

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a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device; and

an interface device configured to communicate with the host, a user, and the first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to[[:]]

receive a replacement request from the user[[:]],

in response to the replacement request, determine whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host[[:]], and

~~if it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image replacement, retrieve an image of the first portable device and download the retrieved image to the second portable device,

wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if the control logic determines that an authorized number of image replacements have been performed with respect to the first portable device.

Claim 24. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 23~~ A system for providing image replacement for portable devices, the system comprising:

a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device; and

an interface device configured to communicate with the host, a user, and the first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to

receive a replacement request from the user, and

in response to the replacement request, determine whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host, and

if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image replacement, retrieve an image of the first portable device and download the retrieved image to the second portable device,

wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to[[:]]

determine whether the second portable device includes additional information that is not included in the image of the first portable device[[:]], and

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if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device includes the additional information, concatenate the additional information with the image of the first portable device, and download the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device onto the second portable device.

Claim 25. (original) The system of claim 24 wherein the interface device concatenates the additional information and the image of the first portable device based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

Claim 26. (original) The system of claim 24 wherein the interface device further includes control logic configured to:

forward the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

Claim 27. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the image of the first portable device is retrieved from a database via the host.

Claim 28. (canceled)

Claim 29. (currently amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 30. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the first and second portable devices contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

Claim 31. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the system is implemented using software, hardware or a combination of both.

Claim 32. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the first and second portable devices include smartcards.

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Claim 33. (currently amended) A method for facilitating image management for portable devices, the method comprising:

using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device;

determining whether the first portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host; and

~~if it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the first portable device is valid for image synchronization, recording an image of the first portable device, determining whether the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and downloading an image of the first portable device to the second portable device ~~if it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image synchronization,

wherein the first portable device is not valid for image synchronization if the control logic determines that an authorized number of image synchronizations has already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

Claim 34. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 further includes ~~comprising:~~

determining whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host; and

~~if it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image replacement, retrieving an image of the first portable device and downloading the retrieved image to the second portable device.

Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the image of the first portable device is retrieved from a database via the host.

Claim 36. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 34 further comprising:~~

A method for facilitating image management for portable devices, the method comprising:

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using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device;

determining whether the first portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host; and

if the control logic determines that the first portable device is valid for image synchronization, recording an image of the first portable device, determining whether the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and downloading an image of the first portable device to the second portable device if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and wherein the method further comprises

determining whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host, and

if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image replacement, retrieving an image of the first portable device and downloading the retrieved image to the second portable device, and wherein the method further comprises

determining whether the second portable device includes additional information that is not included in the image of the first portable device, and

if it is determined the control logic determines that the second portable device includes the additional information, concatenating the additional information with the image of the first portable device, and downloading the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device onto the second portable device.

Claim 37. (original) The method of claim 36 wherein the additional information and the image of the first portable device are concatenated based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

Claim 38. (original) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

forwarding the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

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Claim 39. (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that an authorized number of image replacements have been performed with respect to the first portable device.

Claim 40. (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 41. (canceled)

Claim 42. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image synchronization if the control logic determines ~~it is determined~~ that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 43. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the first and second portable devices contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

Claim 44. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the method is implemented using software, hardware or a combination of both.

Claim 45. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the first and second portable devices include smartcards.

Claims 46.-54. (canceled)

Claim 55. (currently amended) A method for providing image replacement for portable devices, the method comprising:

using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a second portable device;
receiving a replacement request from a user;

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in response to the replacement request, determining whether ~~the determine~~
whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by
the host; and

if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is
valid for image replacement, retrieving an image of the first portable device and downloading the
retrieved image to the second portable device,

wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if the
control logic determines that an authorized number of image replacements has been performed
with respect to the first portable device.

Claim 56. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 55 further comprising:~~
A method for providing image replacement for portable devices, the method
comprising:

using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a
second portable device;

receiving a replacement request from a user;

in response to the replacement request, determining whether the second portable
device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host; and

if the control logic determines that the second portable device is valid for image
replacement, retrieving an image of the first portable device and downloading the retrieved
image to the second portable device, and wherein the method further comprises,

determining whether the second portable device includes additional information
that is not included in the image of the first portable device[[:]], and

if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device
includes the additional information, concatenating the additional information with the image of
the first portable device, and downloading the concatenated additional information and image of
the first portable device onto the second portable device.

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Claim 57. (original) The method of claim 56 wherein the additional information and the image of the first portable device are concatenated based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

Claim 58. (original) The method of claim 56 further comprising:
forwarding the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

Claim 59. (original) The method of claim 56 wherein the image of the first portable device is retrieved from a database via the host.

Claim 60. (canceled).

Claim 61. (currently amended) The method of claim 55 wherein the second portable device is not valid for image replacement if ~~it is determined~~ the control logic determines that the second portable device is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 62. (original) The method of claim 55 wherein the first and second portable devices contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

Claim 63. (original) The method of claim 55 wherein the method is implemented using software, hardware or a combination of both.

Claim 64. (original) The method of claim 55 wherein the first and second portable devices include smartcards.

Claim 65. (new) A method for facilitating image management for portable smartcards, the method comprising:

maintaining information relating to a first portable smartcard and a second portable smartcard;

determining whether the first portable smartcard is valid for image synchronization; and

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determining whether the second smartcard is valid for image synchronization, and downloading an image of the first portable smartcard to the second portable smartcard if the control logic determines that the second portable smartcard is valid for image synchronization, wherein the first and second smartcards contain loyalty information and wherein the first and second portable smartcards belong to the same person.

Claim 66. (new) The method of claim 65 wherein the second portable smartcard is not valid for image replacement if the control logic determines that the second portable smartcard is not linked to the first portable device.

Claim 67. (new) The method of claim 65 wherein the method is implemented using software, hardware or a combination of both.

Claim 68. (new) The method of claim 65 wherein the control logic is present on an interface device configured to communicate with the first and second portable smartcards.